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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Tokelau

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	General	1–3	3
II.	Constitutional and political developments	4–13	3
	A. Constitutional developments	4–10	3
	B. Public service	11–13	4
III.	Economic conditions	14–18	5
	A. Economic developments	14–16	5
	B. Communications	17	6
	C. Power supply	18	6
IV.	Social conditions	19–22	6
	A. Education	19	6
	B. Health	20–21	7
	C. Status of women	22	7
V.	Consideration of the question by the United Nations	23–25	7
	A. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	23	7
	B. Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)	24	8
	C. Action by the General Assembly	25	8

01-34182 (E) 090501

VI. Future status of the Territory 26–34 8
A. Position of the administering Power 26–32 8
B. Position of the people of Tokelau 33–34 9

I. General

1. Tokelau,[1] a Non-Self-Governing Territory administered by New Zealand, consists of three small atolls in the South Pacific (Fakaofo, Nukunonu and Atafu), with a total area of approximately 12.2 square kilometres. Fakaofo is the southernmost atoll; Nukunonu is nearly 50 kilometres away and Atafu nearly 100 kilometres from Nukunonu. Each atoll comprises strips of land no more than 200 metres wide and never more than 5 metres above sea level. Samoa, 480 kilometres to the south, is the nearest sizeable neighbour.

2. Tokelauans are Polynesians with linguistic, family and cultural links with Samoa. The last five-yearly census, conducted in 1996, recorded a population of 1,507 people. In 1998, the population was estimated to have decreased to 1,443.[2] The constraints of atoll life and limited opportunities have led some 6,000 Tokelauans to settle abroad, mainly in New Zealand and Samoa.

3. The two main New Zealand appointees who engage with Tokelau are the Administrator, appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Tokelau Public Service Commissioner, a delegate of the State Services Commissioner. Lindsay Watt, the Administrator, has been reappointed for a further two years, until February 2002. Aleki Silao, a New Zealand-based Tokelauan, is to remain in his post as Public Service Commissioner until 30 June 2001, when responsibility for public services will be transferred to the Territory (see paras. 12 and 13).

II. Constitutional and political developments

A. Constitutional developments

4. As reported in previous working papers on the question of Tokelau (for the most recent, see A/AC.109/2000/5), the process of constitutional development is continuing. In August 1998, the General Fono (the national representative body) endorsed a comprehensive report entitled "Modern House of Tokelau", which addressed the core issue for Tokelau in creating a constitutional framework: how to construct a self-governing nation based on the village.

5. In accordance with recommendations made in the report, a new electoral system was instituted for the General Fono. In the past, the 27-seat General Fono was made up of members chosen by each village's Taupulega (Council of Elders) to serve three-year terms; only the Faipule (the representative of each village) and the Pulenuku (the mayor of each village) were elected. In January 1999, elections for a reformed General Fono, made up of 6 members from each village (18 altogether), were held on the basis of universal suffrage. Each village first elected four officials: Faipule, Pulenuku, Deputy Faipule and Deputy Pulenuku. Next, it elected two delegates nominated by designated groups in the village: women and the aumaga (the workforce of able-bodied men). The new elected General Fono reflects a generational change in membership. Delegates are now younger and have received more formal education than before. In addition, whereas in the past membership in the General Fono was rotational in nature, several of the new delegates have served before. The next elections for Faipule and other General Fono delegates are scheduled to be held in January 2002.

6. According to the administering Power, during the period under review, Tokelau has taken forward its governance project with a special sense of determination and enabled the Modern House project to move gradually from the planning to the implementation stage. In March 2000, senior elected leaders stated that they were now ready to embark fully on the Modern House project and in June 2000 the General Fono officially established the project. Overseeing it is a Joint Committee or management structure comprising Tokelau's six senior elected leaders, the Public Service Commissioner and the Administrator. The Committee held four meetings between August 2000 and March 2001. In addition, a Transition Team has been set up which includes the heads of departments from Tokelau and a number of New Zealand-based specialists. The Transition Team provides project oversight, management, coordination, planning, communications, relations with sponsors (New Zealand Official Development Assistance and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), monitoring, reporting and evaluation. In September 2000, a brief discussion document was presented to the three Village Councils and the people of Tokelau. The key point which was endorsed by the Tokelauans was the following: "The three villages are the traditional foundation of the nation. For the good government of

the people their Village Council (Taupulega) should be the basis of future government." There was no question that the three villages wished to be one nation and that certain functions, such as transport, would be best performed by a national administration; nonetheless, the basis for leadership and decision-making was the village council.

7. In November 2000, the Joint Committee agreed on a programme that involved:

(a) Good governance, namely governance framework, constitutional development, management and operational structures and employer responsibility;

(b) Capacity development, namely the review of national and village administrations, the development of a management support training workshop, the identification of national, village and individual training needs and the development of appropriate training programmes;

(c) "Friends of Tokelau", namely the establishment of an organization to link outside individuals and organizations into Tokelau's development;

(d) National and village sustainable development plans.

8. The General Fono met shortly after and endorsed a statement whereby the Joint Committee heeded the feelings of the Taupulega on the implementation of the Modern House project; heard their views concerning the readiness of the three villages to embark upon the project; acknowledged the wish of one village (Nukunonu) to start immediately and appreciated the willingness of the other two villages to recognize that their lesser preparedness should not stand in the way of such action; and, finally, asked the Transition Team to proceed, recognizing the needs of each village and the adjustments required to accomplish the Modern House. It is believed that Nukunonu's ability to lead maximizes the opportunity for fine-tuning and will assist the other two villages, which are invited to send observers to Nukunonu.

9. In December 2000, a six-day workshop on management support training sponsored by UNDP was held in Samoa. The objectives of the course, which was attended by representatives of the Tokelau Public Service, the three Taupulega and the village administrations, were to provide training on project planning and management, writing skills and financial management and also to assess further training needs.[3] From January 2001, the Transition Team spent two weeks on each atoll to consult on good governance, conduct workshops, review the national and village administration, complete training needs identification and inform people about the project.

10. On 8 March 2001, the Joint Committee met to review progress and study a series of reports. Among the decisions taken were to note the Taupulega's agreement to a village governance structure for Nukunonu and to the appointment of a village General Manager by July 2001; to approve a capacity-building programme; to approve the appointment of a National Project Manager for 12 months and the appointment of part-time village coordinators; and to develop a Modern House web site. With regards to new management structures, it was agreed that the Taupulega was the basis of government and decision-making, that new structures should promote the concept of public service, incorporating both national and village services, and that Tokelau's limited resources and skills should be maximized by the coordination, integration and sharing of services whenever possible.

B. Public service

11. The Modern House project is also Tokelau's way of addressing a historical problem stemming from its experience of an externally modelled Tokelau Public Service, under the management of the New Zealand State Services Commissioner, according to the Tokelau Amendment Act 1967, part I. While the Tokelau Public Service could be seen as the administering Power's best endeavour in the 1970s to provide services in education, health, energy, transport and communications, since then both the New Zealand and Tokelauan authorities have agreed that the Tokelau Public Service has produced a management structure that emphasized national arrangements over village ones, weakening, in the process, the institution of the village. In July 1998, at the request of the territorial Government, the State Services Commissioner appointed a New Zealand-based Tokelauan, Aleki Silao, as Commissioner of the Tokelau Public Service in order to ensure the effective and efficient running of the existing Service, and to assist Tokelau in developing and implementing a new independent

public service that would fit within the Modern House project.

12. The Government of New Zealand has legislation in place to enable responsibility for the Tokelau Public Service to be passed from the State Services Commission in New Zealand to Tokelau. The Tokelau Public Service Commissioner discussed the most appropriate and effective way of completing the hand-over as part of the visit to the atolls by the Transition Team in January 2001. He has stated that Tokelau could now move towards acquiring full responsibility for its human resources — village workforce and the public service — albeit with a helping hand from New Zealand.[3] One formality remains to permit the State Services Commissioner's withdrawal on the planned date of 30 June 2001, through the repeal of the Tokelau Amendment Act 1967, part I. This is an Order in Council pursuant to the Tokelau Amendment Act 1999, whereby the Governor-General would recognize Tokelau's nominated successor to the State Services Commissioner as the employer for the Tokelau Public Service.

13. On 10 February 2001, the General Fono adopted the Tokelau Public Service Rules 2001, which established a three-member Tokelau Employment Commission (one member designated by each village) as the successor body, effective 1 July 2001. They also provide that, should the Commission not be prepared on that date, Aleki Silao should exercise, under rule 4, "all the powers of the Commission until the Commission is fully operational". The new Commission will be the employer of former employees of the Tokelau Public Service and those who are deemed to be national-level employees after 30 June 2001. Still to be determined are the rules required to cover employer arrangements in each village; they will depend on the confirmation of village structures, the first of which should be in place by June 2001. According to the Administrator, a positive feature of this transition is that it is encouraging Tokelauans to focus on employment issues in a new way and promoting discussion on national services and also on the operational arrangements to be established between village structures and the long-standing village workforces under the control of the Taupulega.

III. Economic conditions

A. Economic developments

14. Traditional and communal values and practices play a key role in contributing to a state of general well-being and equity in the Territory, as evidenced by the redistribute principles of traditional wealth (the inati system) and the importance attached to upholding the concept of the family and/or the extended family. The tradition of inati requires the deposition at a central location of food and produce, which are then apportioned by the distributors on the basis of "share groups". The principle provides for a secure distribution system that caters to the needs of every member of the community, including the elderly, widows, single parents and children. Major constraints on economic growth include natural disadvantages, such as the small size of Tokelau, isolation, the geographical spread of the atolls, limited and poor natural resources, and proneness to natural disasters (such as cyclones). Tokelau's economic stability has so far been made possible by the high levels of assistance provided by the administering Power.

15. In March 2000, representatives of Tokelau and New Zealand held formal talks on the Territory's bilateral development assistance programme. Total expenditure by the New Zealand Official Development Assistance programme for Tokelau for the financial year 2000/01 was projected at 8.5 million New Zealand dollars. Of that expenditure, NZ$ 4.5 million is ongoing support for self-government and NZ$ 2.7 million is earmarked for project support in such areas as health, education, power supply, maintenance, infrastructure, telecommunications, financial management, gender and development and meteorological services (see paras. 17-22 below). In addition, NZ$ 1.26 million is destined for transitional support, with NZ$ 900,000 specifically earmarked for the Modern House project. Both parties continue to draw on the services of an independent economic and financial adviser.

16. While the bulk of development assistance to Tokelau has been bilateral support from New Zealand; UNDP also contributes from its office in Apia, Samoa, to the strengthening of the Territory's social and economic capabilities as it moves towards greater self-government and self-reliance. A UNDP mission to Tokelau in July 2000[4] discussed with the Council of

Faipule the need to close down a number of old UNDP projects and focus on ensuring the success of the Tokelau/UNDP country cooperation framework for 1998-2002. In September 2000, a UNDP/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) mission visited Tokelau with the objective of facilitating the integration of the Modern House framework and the UNDP governance project and to provide UNESCO technical backstopping to the power supply component.[5] Within the UNDP programme of assistance,[6] the governance project provides total UNDP funding of US$ 214,000 in direct support to the Modern House project. It focuses on macro-level financial management and strategic economic planning and also stresses the management of the public power supply considered vital for the functioning of both Government and the community. The job creation and sustainable livelihoods project, to be implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) with funding of US$ 148,000, aims to develop the private sector in the three atolls by stimulating small, home-based enterprises, diversification in agriculture and development of fisheries. Both projects are linked to job creation and sustainable livelihoods programmes within the Enterprise Development Agency newly created by the New Zealand Official Development Assistance. Other ongoing projects are the household income and expenditure survey, with US$ 150,000 allocated to Tokelau, which aims to provide the Government with data on the needs of vulnerable sectors (youth, women, children, the elderly and the disabled) and a project to improve the monitoring and oversight capacity of the UNDP country office in Samoa.

B. Communications

17. The first use of the General Fono's legislative power was the establishment of Telecommunications Tokelau Corporation under the Tokelau Telecommunications Rules of 1996. The NZ$ 4 million international telecommunication service was inaugurated in April 1997 and is contributing to the Territory's progress towards self-determination by facilitating Tokelau's contact with the outside world. Previously, Tokelau had to rely on short-wave links to Samoa and a mail ship that visited every five weeks. Of the total cost, New Zealand contributed NZ$ 1.5 million and Tokelau NZ$ 1.6 million. UNDP and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) provided the balance. Recently, ITU agreed to a request by the Government to utilize residual project funds for further communications needs, such as the installation of modems on Atafu and Nukunonu to complete the teleconferencing link between the three Faipule and upgrading work in the system to support this.[4] Plans are still in place for a US$ 35,000 project funded by the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNET) to set up an email system in Tokelau. The forward aid programme (2000/01) of the New Zealand Official Development Assistance has also set aside NZ$ 50,000 for the Telecommunications Tokelau Corporation to install email and to make the switch from the Telstra Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) satellite equipment, which has been used up to now, to the more suitable Intelsat DAMA equipment.

C. Power supply

18. The 2000/01 forward aid programme of the New Zealand Official Development Assistance has allocated NZ$ 1 million to the power supply project for Tokelau. This funding is considered sufficient to enable the installation of additional diesel generation power systems on two atolls during the year. A recent technical report on power supply options concluded that only a diesel system would generate enough power to run village freezers purchased for a fisheries venture.

IV. Social conditions

A. Education

19. Under Tokelau's compulsory education system, primary and secondary education is available to everyone. As a member of the University of the South Pacific, Tokelau also has access to the USPNet educational telecommunications system through a satellite established in Atafu. However, the low standard of the education system remains a problem, with many families migrating to New Zealand or Samoa in order for their children to receive higher-quality education. Reflecting the priority given to educational needs, the forward aid programme 2000/01 of the New Zealand Official Development Assistance allocated NZ$ 520,000 to this sector: NZ$ 240,000 to be spent on scholarships, funding 14

awards for secondary and tertiary study in New Zealand; NZ$ 150,000 on a long-term teacher-training project to address the teacher shortage and upgrade teaching skills; NZ$ 30,000 to fund two teachers assigned to Tokelau through the Volunteer Service Abroad programme; and up to NZ$ 100,000 for computers in schools, to include software, maintenance and protection of hardware and professional development for teachers.

B. Health

20. Average life expectancy is 69 years.[7] There are three hospitals, one on each atoll. However, the shortage of qualified medical practitioners, surgeons and general healthcare workers remains a serious problem. The necessity of transferring the more serious cases to Samoa or New Zealand for treatment represents a large expense in the national budget. The World Health Organization (WHO), of which Tokelau is an associate member, reports that changes in lifestyle and an increase in non-communicable diseases in Tokelau have resulted in the need for health education programmes focused mainly on the promotion of non-smoking, increasing physical activity and controlling the use of alcohol among young people.[8] According to WHO, the first Tokelauan WHO fellow from the Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery programme at the Fiji School of Medicine graduated in the biennium 1998-1999. The United Nations Volunteer programme has covered the need for a surgeon and maternal/child health practitioner and a preventive oral health programme is being developed. WHO also reports the installation of a diagnostic service facility in Nukunonu, which includes a laboratory and an X-ray unit. As at November 2000, Tokelau had no recorded cases of HIV/AIDS.[9]

21. For 2000/01 NZ$ 420,000 was allocated to the health sector in the forward aid programme as follows: NZ$ 100,000 in support to medical referrals and the development of community health programmes, information technology and telemedicine; NZ$ 30,000 to fund at least one locum doctor to be present in Tokelau at all times; NZ$ 40,000 for physical upgrading of the three hospitals; NZ$ 100,000 to purchase hospital equipment, two gas/kerosene cold-chain refrigerators for storing vaccines at Nukunonu Central Hospital and in Apia, Samoa, and an appropriate computer system and digital camera to allow for telemedical links; NZ$ 50,000 for the purchase of drugs; and NZ$ 100,000 for training, including six nursing students in Fiji and Samoa, one student at the Fiji School of Medicine and three medical staff per year to attend short courses in surgery procedures, health education and management.

C. Status of women

22. Women are well integrated in Tokelauan society. They participate fully in the village decision-making process, through Fatupaepae (women's committees), the village Councils of Elders and their membership in the General Fono. The new electoral system for the General Fono has increased gender equity. Women elected to the General Fono no longer function as the representative of the women's committee, but are responsible for representing all the people of the village. At bilateral discussions held in March 2000, concerns were expressed regarding the slow progress in the area of gender and development in recent years. Lack of communication between the Fatupaepae and officials in Wellington was identified as a primary cause of this. It was proposed that a direct link between the presidents of the women's committees on each atoll and the development project manager should be established so that the women could submit proposals directly. The forward aid programme for 2000/01 allocated NZ$ 50,000 to gender and development to be applied to specific priority projects identified by the Fatupaepae. It could also include salary payments for positions set up to assist women's social and economic development.

V. Consideration of the question by the United Nations

A. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

23. Aliki Faipule Kolouei, the Ulu O Tokelau (titular head of Tokelau), Falani Aukuso and Lindsay Watt (Administrator of Tokelau) attended the Pacific Regional Seminar organized by the Special Committee to review the political, economic and social conditions

in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Majuro, Marshall Islands, from 16 to 18 May 2000. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 7th and 11th meetings, on 10 and 12 July 2000. At the 7th meeting, a statement was made by the Administrator of Tokelau (see paras. 26-28 below). At the 11th meeting the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced revised draft resolution A/AC.109/2000/L.10/Rev.1 which the Special Committee adopted without a vote (A/AC.109/2000/26). Statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Chile and Antigua and Barbuda.[10]

B. Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

24. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 September 2000, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly heard a statement by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations (see A/C.4/55/SR.3, para. 35). At its 8th meeting, on 3 October 2000, the Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "Question of Tokelau" recommended by the Special Committee, without a vote.[11]

C. Action by the General Assembly

25. At the 83rd meeting of the General Assembly, on 8 December 2000, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee introduced the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly. With regard to Tokelau, he stated that the Special Committee had noted the firm commitment of the Territory to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination. It commended Tokelau for its ongoing work in charting a distinctive, constitutional course that reflected its unique traditions and environment. It acknowledged the participation of the Tokelau representative in the Pacific Regional Seminar and the progress made by the Territory. It also acknowledged the effective and positive role of New Zealand as the administering Power and its commitment to meet its obligations to the United Nations (see A/55/PV.83). At the same meeting, the Assembly adopted resolution 55/143 on the question of Tokelau without a vote.

VI. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the administering Power

26. Speaking before the Special Committee on 10 July 2000, the Administrator of Tokelau, Lindsay Watt, said that New Zealand had long been committed, under Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, to develop self-government in Tokelau, taking due account of the political aspirations of its people, and to assist them in the progressive development of their political institutions. The practical question had always been how best to deliver upon that commitment. Contact with the outside world had touched Tokelau more than colonialism itself — there had never been a resident administering Power in the Territory. The core challenge for Tokelauans today was two-fold: on the one hand contact with the modern world made any reversion to subsistence times non-viable, while, on the other hand, there was an instinctive wish to experience afresh the sense of autonomy enjoyed in earlier centuries, when decisions were taken within the traditional consensus environment reflected in Tokelau's foundation — the village. Within that context, self-determination — the outside world's goal — had become a realizable objective for Tokelauans too.

27. The Administrator stated that much had been done since 1994 to advance in that area. The Modern House project was about the practicalities of moving forward. It focused on village-level governance, building capacity and support structures but it would attend also to national requirements. In June 2000, the traditional and elected leadership had taken the final decision to go ahead. Until then, no outsider could have taken that decision for granted. The project was well supported with substantial additional funding provided by New Zealand and a useful contribution from UNDP. Basic questions arose, such as whether Tokelauan culture and way of life could survive through the new century. Thus all concerned were determined to bring together the governance and economic development dimensions of the project and to ensure that the structures and approaches undertaken were collectively considered, for nothing could work without social cohesion. There was also a need to maintain economic and cultural links to the more than 6,000 Tokelauans who now lived in other parts of the world. Tokelau and New Zealand had discussed consensus language for the Special Committee

resolution on the Territory. It would be useful if the resolution captured something of the present phase of heightened activity and reflected that the well-conceived process in place was not only aimed at self-determination but also had the capacity to carry things through to that end.

28. The Administrator went on to say that the case of Tokelau had a broader significance for the United Nation's decolonization endeavours as it promoted thought on political status and the status quo. The most likely end result in Tokelau's political status choice could be expected to be not too different from the status quo, but it would be codified in a politically and practically innovative way. Tokelau would probably decide on a range of desired features in its future relationship with its desired external partner (for effectively the Territory had ruled out the independence option). Then, when that was done and agreed upon, it would seek the outside world's help in putting the best available label on that relationship.

29. Speaking before the Fourth Committee on 25 September 2000, the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations said that as an administering Power, New Zealand was pleased to report on further progress made by Tokelau over the past year towards a fuller measure of self-government. The development of self-government in Tokelau presented a special challenge because it was hardly a typical example of decolonization. It must be recalled that Tokelau consisted of three atolls, each no more than 200 metres wide and never more than 5 metres above sea level. Some 1,500 people lived in three villages on the atolls. Administrative control over Tokelau had been transferred to New Zealand in 1926 at the initiative of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

30. The challenge for Tokelau at the start of the new millennium was to find the means to express itself as a nation. Traditional village leaders remained at the centre of political life, but today they had to be equipped with modern techniques of governance as well as traditional ones. In 2000, Tokelau had unequivocally informed the United Nations that its population was moving resolutely forward to build the so called "Modern House", a modern self-governance system. That determination had been reflected in the resolution adopted without a vote by the Special Committee on 12 July 2000 (see para. 23 above). The resolution was currently before the General Assembly in the form of a recommendation from the Special Committee. It reflected Tokelau's view that the Modern House project was the means to achieve self-determination.

31. Within the Modern House project, the political authority of traditional leaders was to be recognized and practical arrangements for the governance of Tokelau were to be addressed. The idea of self-governance remained largely foreign to Tokelauans, although some progress had been made in developing a capacity for national government through the constitutional programme being carried out by New Zealand and Tokelau since 1992. Experience had shown that national government could take root only with the full confidence of the people. The project provided precisely the reassurance needed. In many respects, building the Modern House and drafting the constitution of Tokelau were one and the same process.

32. The focus now was very much on practical measures, including the development of management structures, the transfer to Tokelau of responsibility for human resource management, the formation of a civil service, capacity development and sustainable development planning. A draft programme of work for the period up to mid-2001 had been prepared. UNDP was seeking to ensure that its programmes in support of governance and sustainable development complemented the programmes financed by New Zealand. Two UNDP representatives and a representative of UNESCO were currently in Tokelau to observe the consultations being held in the three villages. Concerning the time frame for achievement of self-determination in Tokelau, he drew attention to the resolution of the Special Committee, which noted Tokelau's desire to move in that direction at its own pace. The collaborative efforts now under way would produce clearer guidance as to a feasible time frame. New Zealand was responding to Tokelau's needs by providing additional funding through official development assistance (A/C.4/55/SR.3).

B. Position of the people of Tokelau

33. The issue of self-determination is under active consideration by the people of Tokelau. On 10 July 2000, a statement by the three Faipule who comprise the Council of Faipule (Tokelau's ongoing executive body) was distributed to the members of the Special Committee. They began by stating that the end of the

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism was for Tokelau the beginning of a development phase that would make it possible for the Territory to exercise its inalienable right to an act of self-determination. The representatives recalled that they had informed the Special Committee of the objectives of the Modern House of Tokelau project at the Marshall Islands seminar in May and they had been granted the overwhelming support by the villages, endorsed by the General Fono in June, to implement those objectives. Consistent with the close collaboration between Tokelau and its administering Power, they would be working together with the Administrator, the Tokelau Public Service Commissioner and the village mayors, as members of the Joint Committee that would have management oversight over the Modern House project. In the next year there would be significant movement in implementing governance and constitutional arrangements, which would enhance Tokelau's capacity to fully govern itself internally. The good governance project between Tokelau and UNDP would assist greatly in achieving those aspirations. As they observed political unrest in neighbouring countries (and further afield), they were determined to sculpt governance arrangements that were enduring, non-divisive, relevant to their situation, consensus forming and which brought real benefits for their people. There would also be a major focus on sustainable economic development activities, such as a Tokelau Trust Fund, the establishment of an economic development agency and the UNDP-funded project on sustainable livelihood.

34. The statement concluded as follows:

> "Today, we live by money. We ask ourselves are we capable of returning to the days of full subsistence living? In spirit that is our desire, in material terms it is more difficult. But we seek to find the modern expression of that spirit of self-help. To stand tall and proud with other toilers of the earth and harvesters of the sea's bounty ...
>
> "Basic and major infrastructure development is not only a necessity, but also a facilitator for achieving internal self-government. We will continue the dialogue with the Government of New Zealand and will seek a comprehensive plan on how we manage these in the future ...
>
> "Money makes possible the impossible and we wish once again to express our everlasting gratitude to the Government of New Zealand for, precisely, making the impossible possible. The Modern House of Tokelau project will materialize because of the extra assistance from Tokelau's administering State. UNDP too is to be commended for its flexibility in adjusting its funding assistance, thus targeting Tokelau's real needs. We thank you for the support ...
>
> "We will not know what will happen unless we roll the wheel. The wheel is now turning and we are not afraid. Whether it is the main paddle or the steering wheel it is all the same. We know the direction we are going — the stars are there to guide us if we venture away from our destination. So too are there charts to help us from being adrift in calm waters, without movement. Your support, assistance and sensitivity are all landmarks of that chart."

Notes

[1] Information contained in the present paper has been derived from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of New Zealand on 1 August 2000, 23 February 2001 and 12 April 2001, from the organizations of the United Nations system and from published sources.

[2] Central Intelligence Agency, *World Factbook, 1998*.

[3] He Ho Lava, Newsletter of Friends of Tokelau, vol. 1, issue 1, January 2001.

[4] UNDP, Tokelau mission report, 10-16 July 2000.

[5] Annual report 2000, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau.

[6] UNDP programme of assistance to Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, March 2001.

[7] UNDP, Pacific Human Development Report, 1999.

[8] Information received from WHO on 19 March 2001.

[9] WHO data reported by Pacific Islands Report/Radio Australia, 1 December 2000.

[10] A/55/23 (Part II), paras. 94-102, and A/55/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. E.

[11] A/55/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. E.